

Message Text

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STADIS//////////

FOR EUR/RPM LEDOGAR FROM GLITMAN

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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL: DOD/ISA STUDY PROPOSALS

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1. WE HAVE TWO BROAD AREAS OF CONCERN REGARDING THE PROPOSED STUDY DESCRIBED REFTEL. ONE INVOLVES ITS ULTIMATE VALUE, THE OTHER INVOLVES REACTIONS FROM ALLIES AND NATO OFFICIALS IN THE LIKELY EVENT THE STUDY DRAWS ATTENTION.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF EVALUATING FRANCE'S CONTRIBUTION TO AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE COMPONENTS OF THE LTDP AND HOW THESE IN TURN WILL RELATE TO FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT A YEAR-LONG STUDY ON THIS PROBLEM WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS.

3. WE SEE THE ISSUE IN TERMS OF HOW TO BUILD UPON EXISTING FRENCH LIAISON WITH THE LTDP EFFORT. AND WE SEE IT AS ONE WHICH WILL BE UPON US IN A FORTNIGHT WITH THE PUBLICATION

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OF THE PETRIGNANI REPORT ON LTDP FOLLOW-UP.

4. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE FRENCH AND THE 13 ON FRANCE'S ROLE IN THE LTDP FOLLOW UP BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT THE CNAD WILL BE INVOLVED IN CLOSE TO HALF OF THE SPECIFIC FOLLOW UP ACTION PROGRAMS AND THAT FRANCE AS A MEMBER OF CNAD WILL

HAVE TO DETERMINE ITS POLICY REGARDING THIS ACTIVITY.
SECONDLY, THE FRENCH, AS YOU RECALL, MAINTAINED LIAISON
WITH 5 OF THE 10 TASK FORCE AREAS, AND WERE KEPT INFORMED
ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REMAINING 4 CONVENTIONAL AREA
TASK FORCES. HERE, AGAIN, THE PROBLEM OF WHETHER THIS
LIAISON ARRANGEMENT SHOULD CONTINUE INTO THE FOLLOW-UP
PERIOD IS LIKELY TO BE POSED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER AND
IN ANY EVENT BEFORE WE CAN DIGEST THE RESULTS OF A YEAR-
LONG STUDY. IN SUM, WE WILL NEED POLICY DECISIONS BEFORE
THE STUDY IS OFF THE GROUND.

5. OUR OWN VIEW FROM HERE IS THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE
CONTINUED FRENCH LIAISON WITH THE TASK FORCES AND FULL
PARTICIPATION IN THE CNAD BODY, THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE
QUIETLY, AND WITHOUT MAKING A LARGE ISSUE OF THE ARRANGE-
MENTS (THE GRECO-TURKISH PROBLEM, HOWEVER, COULD RAISE THE
ISSUE TO ONE OF PRINCIPLE).

6. ON THE SECOND QUESTION, WE DEFER TO EMBASSY PARIS CON-
CERNING THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOF OR FRENCH PUBLIC ATTITUDES
MIGHT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED SHOULD THE STUDY ATTRACT ATTEN-
TION. WE WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS FROM OUR PERSPEC-
TIVE: (A) GIVEN THE NATURE OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE
STUDY (A FRENCH GENERAL, A GERMAN JOURNALIST, ETC.) IT
SEEMS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THE STUDY WILL IN FACT COME TO THE
ATTENTION OF THE FRENCH, OTHER ALLIES AND NATO OFFICIALS.
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(B) OUR EFFORTS IN NATO AND CAPITALS OVER THE PAST YEAR TO
PUSH THE LTDP WERE OFTEN DIFFICULT AND FREQUENTLY RUFFLED
SENSITIVITIES. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN NECESSARY MOMENTUM FOR
THE LTDP, WE WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO PUSH HARD IN THE
MONTHS AHEAD. AT TIMES, AS WE HAVE LEARNED, THERE WILL BE
RESISTANCE AND OCCASIONAL RESENTMENT, DESPITE THE BASIC
SUPPORT OF NATO OFFICIALS AND ALLIES. GIVEN THIS SITUATION,
IN WHICH THE ALLIES WILL BE WATCHING WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE
DO IT, THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRO-
POSED STUDY NOT ONLY ON FRENCH BUT ALLIES AND NATO
OFFICIALS AS WELL, MIGHT BE GREATER THAN WOULD NORMALLY
BE THE CASE.

7. EMBASSY PARIS HAS ALREADY GIVEN ITS VIEWS ON LIKELY
FRENCH REACTIONS TO A LEAK OF THE STUDY. WE CAN SUBSCRIBE
TO THESE, UNDERSCORING OUR VIEW THAT THE MULTINATIONAL
NATURE OF THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDY MAKES IT ALMOST
CERTAIN THAT BOTH THE EXISTENCE OF THE STUDY AND ITS CON-
TENTS WILL COME TO THE ATTENTION OF FRENCH OFFICIALS AND
PERHAPS THROUGH THEM THE PRESS.

8. ON BALANCE, WHILE RECOGNIZING THE ISSUE IS IMPORTANT,

WE ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE STUDY, LARGELY BECAUSE
OF THE TIMING PROBLEMS NOTED ABOVE. GLITMAN

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